



Is Skyline Drive Open?

Call (540) 999-3500, Option 1, then Option 1. You may also check our Facebook page or Twitter feed:

Facebook: shenandoahnps
Twitter: @shenandoahnps

Winter Hiking

Winter is a great time to hike. The quiet and solitude are unmatched. The cold, clear days are perfect for an invigorating trip to a summit or to see a waterfall frozen in time. Be sure to dress in layers and take water, snacks, and a flashlight. Be prepared for the unexpected, and remember that cell phones don’t work in most areas in the Park.

It’s a good idea to know what time the sun sets. Darkness can sneak up quickly. Be sure someone knows your itinerary and what part of the Park you plan to visit.

Important to Know

The speed limit along Skyline Drive is 35 mph.

Wildlife and pets are a dangerous combination. If you bring your pet to Shenandoah, you must keep it on a leash no longer than 6 feet at all times. Pets are prohibited on the following trails:

- Fox Hollow Trail (mile 4.6)
- Stony Man Trail (mile 41.7)
- Limberlost Trail (mile 43)
- Dark Hollow Falls Trail (mile 50.4)
- Story of the Forest Trail (mile 51)
- Bearfence Rock Scramble (mile 56.4)
- Frazier Discovery Trail (mile 79.5)
- Old Rag Ridge Trail
- Old Rag Saddle Trail

Help Combat Illegal Hunting

Hunting is illegal in Shenandoah National Park. If you see someone hunting, spotlighting, or transporting wildlife in the Park, call 1-800-732-0911 or 540-999-2227. You do not have to reveal your name, but if you do, it will be kept confidential. Shenandoah National Park will pay a reward to anyone who gives information leading to a conviction.

Byrd Visitor Center (mile 51)

Stop by Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and holiday Mondays (January 21 and February 18) between 9:30 and 4:00 when Skyline Drive is open. Closed Christmas and New Years Day.

You can chat with a Ranger, visit our interactive exhibits, see a movie, shop in the Park Store and even purchase a hot drink and a light snack.

Winter in Shenandoah

Winter is a great time to visit, especially if you are looking for solitude, and clear, crisp views.

If there’s snow or ice, Skyline Drive may be closed, but the Park is always open. You can still hike in to snowshoe, crosscountry ski, and enjoy the Park. Be sure to listen and look for plows. Some picnic areas are open; see the back for a list.

You’ll have a better chance of seeing deer, squirrels, and turkeys as they forage for food. Foxes and bobcats are active through winter. If winter is very mild, you might see signs of black bears who have emerged for a quick snack before returning to slumber.

Listen and look for Shenandoah’s winter birdlife. Chickadees, juncos, titmice, cardinals (pictured above), nuthatches, and woodpeckers will be searching shrubs and ground plants for seeds and berries, or peeking under bark for hard-to-find insects. Snow in the mountains makes it fun and easy to see who’s out and about. Look for tracks of mice, rabbits, and turkeys.



Winter sunsets are the prettiest and most dramatic. The crisp, clear air makes for sunsets that look like soda counter parfaits – sherbet oranges, raspberry pinks, blackberry purples, and blueberry indigos.

A winter visit is just one more way to experience Shenandoah!

Winter Visitor Services | December 2018 - March 2019

Important Safety Tips

- There are no commercial services. Fuel is available through self-pay at Big Meadows, but pumps don't work during power outages. It's best to enter the Park with a full tank.
- Be prepared and self-reliant! Weather and road conditions can change rapidly and are quite different from the surrounding lowlands.
- Visitor services and cell coverage are very limited.
- Although Skyline Drive is normally open 24 hours a day, severe weather may necessitate closure at any time.
- Expect winter driving conditions. Be alert for ice on the road, especially on shaded curves. Although the speed limit is 35 mph, conditions often require lower speeds.
- Park Emergency Number: (800) 732-0911

Dickey Ridge Visitor Center (mile 4.6)

Restrooms, picnic grounds

Elkwallow Picnic Grounds (mile 24.1)

Picnic grounds, vault toilets, frost-proof hydrant

Panorama (mile 31.5)

Restrooms, frost-proof hydrant

Pinnacles Picnic Grounds (mile 35.1)

Picnic grounds, vault toilet, frost-proof hydrant

Byrd Visitor Center (mile 51)

Visitor Center: Open 9:30 - 4:00 (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) and holiday Mondays: January 21 and February 18.
(films, exhibits, information, Park Store)

Restrooms: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

South River Picnic Grounds (mile 62.7)

Picnic grounds, vault toilet, frost-proof hydrant

Phones Along Skyline Drive

Mile	Location	Phone Type
0.6	Front Royal Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
4.6	Dickey Ridge Restrooms	Local/Calling Card/Collect Only Phone
24	Elkwallow Wayside	Pay Phone
31.5	Thornton Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*
51	Big Meadows Campground	Emergency Phone* at Registration Station
65.5	Swift Run Gap Entrance Station	Pay Phone
79.5	Loft Mountain Wayside	Emergency Phone*
104.9	Rockfish Gap Entrance Station	Emergency Phone*

*Emergency phones connect directly to Park emergency services.

Map of Shenandoah National Park

